Serial No. 10/050,148 Docket No. HI-0072

## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

## 1-12. Canceled

13. (New) A method for setting a dominant color to describe a given image region by using at least one dominant color that represent the given image region and a spatial coherency (SC) on at least one dominant color, the method comprising:

comparing the spatial coherency with a predetermined threshold; and non-uniformly quantizing the spatial coherency by mapping a quantized spatial coherency (QSC) corresponding to the spatial coherency, based on the comparison between the spatial coherency and the predetermined threshold.

- 14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the spatial coherency is normalized from 0 to 1 and the threshold is 0.70.
- 15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the spatial coherency is quantized by 1 bit, and wherein the QSC becomes zero (QSC = 0) if the spatial coherency is smaller than the

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threshold 0.70, while the QSC becomes 1 (QSC =1) if the spatial coherency is greater than the threshold 0.70.

- 16. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the threshold includes the first threshold of 0.62 and the second threshold of 0.70.
- 17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the spatial coherency is quantized by 2 bits or more, and wherein the QSC becomes zero (QSC = 0) if the spatial coherency is smaller than the first threshold 0.62 (SC < 0.62); the QSC becomes 1 (QSC =1) if the spatial coherency is greater than or equal to the first threshold 0.62 and smaller than the second threshold 0.70 (0.62  $\leq$  SC < 0.70); and an uniform quantization is applied to a region having the spatial coherency from 0.70 to 1 if the spatial coherency is greater than or equal to 0.7 (0.70  $\leq$  SC).
- 18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the uniform quantization of the quantized spatial coherency (QSC) is performed based on the following formula:

$$(QSC) = (int) [(SC - 0.7)/(1.0 - 0.7) \times (2.0 \text{ SC\_BIT} - 3.0) + 0.5] + 2$$

wherein SC\_BIT is a number of bits assigned to the quantization.

19. (New) A method for setting a dominant color to describe a given image region by using at least one dominant color that represents the given image region and a spatial coherency (SC) on said at least one dominant color, the method comprising:

comparing the spatial coherency with a predetermined threshold; and non-uniformly quantizing the spatial coherency by mapping a quantized spatial coherency (QSC) corresponding to the spatial coherency, based on the comparison between the spatial coherency and the predetermined threshold, wherein the spatial coherency is normalized from 0 to 1 and the threshold is 0.70, wherein if the spatial coherency is smaller than the threshold 0.70, a quantization value on the corresponding spatial coherency is mapped into '1', and for a region having the spatial coherency between 0.70 and 1, a uniform quantization is applied as many as a number of remaining quantization.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the uniform quantization of the quantized spatial coherency (QSC) is performed based on the following formula:

$$(QSC) = (int) [(SC - 0.7)/(1.0 - 0.7) \times (2.0 \text{ SC\_BIT} - 2.0) + 0.5] + 2$$

wherein, SC\_BIT is a number of bits assigned to the quantization.